



Alternate Channel

The newsletter for and about the members of the
LOUDOUN COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SYSTEM

SEPTEMBER 2004



Group Photo of a Swift Water Training instructed by Rescue 3 Virginia at the Great Falls National Park. Participants included volunteers from Leesburg Fire Company 1, Loudoun Rescue Company 13, and career personnel from Loudoun County Fire-Rescue Services.

See Story on Page 5

Alternate Channel

is a monthly publication for members, families and supporters of the Loudoun County Fire-Rescue system produced by the Loudoun County Department of Fire-Rescue Services.

Printed by The Printery.

Editor: Frankie H. Rust
frust@loudoun.gov

The mailing address for information or articles is:

Alternate Channel
Loudoun County Department of
Fire & Rescue Services
16600 Courage Court
Leesburg, Virginia 20175

Deadline Submission

Date:

Submissions for the Alternate Channel issues are due by the first business day of the previous month.

Example:

May 1st for June Issue

Company Reporters:

- Co. 1 J.B. Anderson, &
Ian Buchanan
- Co. 2 Rick Reaves
- Co. 3 Edna Algie-Hoppes
- Co. 4 Betty Dodge/Cyndi Vest
- Co. 5 Jim Reed
- Co. 6 Kay Parker
- Co. 7 Jeannie Cooper
- Co. 8 William D. Schwartz
- Co. 9
- Co.10 Frank Fitchett
- Co.11 David Short
- Co.12 Mike Senate
- Co.13 Marie Householder
- Co.14 Sue Johnson
- Co.15 Wilma Grant
- Co.16 Jim Dunagin
- Co.17 Rodney Krone, Jr.

LOUDOUN COUNTY VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Loudoun County Volunteer Rescue Squad was founded 51 years ago in 1952. In those years, the organization has grown from a scattered group of volunteers with only minimal training and virtually no equipment— and all of it donated— into an organization of highly trained emergency rescue workers— both volunteer and career. Their equipment is state-of-the-art with a fleet of fully equipped ambulances that can whisk ill or injured Loudoun residents to the nearest hospital in a fraction of the time it would have taken 1952's under-staffed and under-equipped volunteers.

In September 1952, a group of 12 Hamilton residents recognized the need for a "Rescue Squad" and set out to prepare themselves to tackle the job. Their preparation consisted of Standard First Aid training; their "ambulance" was a used station wagon with a cot in the back for transporting patients. Since there was no 911 dispatch system at the time, members telephoned each other in an emergency and arranged to meet at the rescue scene. The original 12 members provided emergency rescue services for virtually the entire County, with the exception of the Sterling area, which was covered by Herndon and Dranesville.

In August of 1953, the Squad acquired its first "truck" ambulance— a pickup truck with a box cover, into which they put oxygen and a few supplies that the Red Cross and the army had given them. This equipment was stored in a donated, rent-free barn illuminated by a single light bulb. In succeeding years, the ambulance "fleet" evolved from a station wagon and pick-up into some undertakers' Cadillac hearses that had outlived their usefulness as funeral coffin carriers. Historians of the time did not record patient' reaction to the macabre vehicle sent to transport them. It wasn't until 1963, more than ten years after its founding, that Loudoun Rescue acquired its first small "van" ambulance. The first of the modern "box" ambulances we see today did not arrive until 1971. That same year, the last of the hearses departed from the scene.

The original squad uniforms consisted of white coats and hats, similar to those worn by the Good Humor man. In 1962, a green jacket was adopted, and in 1970 they switched to white coveralls with "L.R.", for Loudoun Rescue, on the back. In 1985, after a member working on an auto wreck was struck by an oncoming car, highly visible orange "pumpkin" coveralls became the norm. The current uniform consists of navy blue trousers and a matching polo shirt bearing the squad's logo. The logo was designed by then member, Howard Dawley, Jr., who subsequently went on to become Deputy Chief of Loudoun County's Fire & Rescue Services.

Over the years, squad training has expanded greatly from standard first aid courses. In 1969 the first group to take the "new" EMS (Emergency Medical Technician) course had to go to Fairfax for training. Doctors Towe and Gable taught later courses until Loudoun County established its own training center.

Similarly, the Dispatch system evolved over the years from telephone operators calling key people, to a 911 system established in the Sheriff's office in 1959. Even then, however, a key person had to run the siren so members could respond for duty. Today, with a modernized 911 system, notification is electronic county wide, with dispatchers then describing the specific emergency. From approximately 40 emergency calls in 1953, the squad responded to more than 3,700 calls in the year 2002.

Continued on Page 8:

COMPANY NEWS

Company 4:

Company 4 braved unseasonably cool weather June 6 for joint-staff training in water rescue. Five volunteer members and the entire A shift assembled at Rescue Chief Fred and Lieutenant Nancy Muller's backyard pool in Round Hill.

The first scenario featured a trauma victim lying half-submerged on the deck. The initial rescue entailed taking C-spine and then using the water's buoyancy to slip the victim onto a backboard. In recapping the action, the group re-saved a shivering Steve Jacobs by crossing his arms over his head, the better to preserve C-spine, and dragging him up on the deck, where he could be log-rolled onto a backboard.

Firefighter Nicole Carter, now at Company 13, who has water-rescue experience and training from volunteering at the Cabin John firehouse in Montgomery County, gave further instruction on rescuing unresponsive patients in the water. Trainees learned to put a forearm up the spine and clutch the back of the patient's head while securing spinal control with the other hand on the patient's jaw. The rescuer then rolls under the patient, getting the patient supine, ready for being swum to shallow water.

While most of the class observed from the adjacent hot tub, Carter also demonstrated several techniques for getting the backboard under the patient, both from the side and, while several rescuers hold the patient's head and back, by submerging the board under the patient's feet toward the



Fred Muller and Steve Jacobs take instructions from Firefighter Nicole Carter as she shows how to backboard a patient, Mary Marks, in the water.

head.

Then the rarely used rope bag came off the engine. Again, Carter showed how to throw it so the rope plays out and how to re-pack the rope so it will be ready again. Moreover, if the first toss fails, the empty bag can be filled with water and tossed or the rope can be recoiled and tossed while the thrower keeps hold of the bag. In any case, the rescuer should crouch to lower his center of gravity when towing in the victim—and avoid holding the rope in anyway that would entangle him should currents or other hazards yank so hard as to pull him into peril.

With the air temperature in the low 60s and various comic stunts duly executed, the assemblage returned to the firehouse for water-rescue pizza.

The exercise was part of enhanced, regularly scheduled training under the direction of Janet Maurer, a longtime company paramedic, on such subjects as allergic reactions, horse accidents, overdoses, the new NOVA manuals and fireground operations.

Submitted by Mary Marks

Photographs Courtesy of Janet Maurer

OCTOBER 2004

Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meetings of the Loudoun County Fire &

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Companies 1,3,5,6,11,16	5	6 Companies 13 & 17	7	8	9
10 Company 14	11 Companies 2,7,8,9,12 BLS Committee	12 Rescue Chiefs Flu Shots	13 Company 10 R&R Com. Flu Shots	14 Company 15 Flu Shots	15	16
17	18 Company 1 ALS Committee	19 EMS Council	20 Fire Council	21	22	23
24 31	25 Companies 4 & 8	26 Fire-Rescue Commission	27	28	29	30

SCHEDULED TRAINING

AHA CPR-Healthcare Provider

Class #7 October 17, 2004

Class #8 Dec. 5, 2004



N.F.P.A. Fire Instructor

“Upgrades”

Level 1 -Sept. 7 & 9, 2004

Level 2 -Sept. 11, 2004

Swift Water Awareness

September 11, 12, 25, &
26, 2004



Driver Operator-Pumper Train-the-Trainer Class

September 18, 2004

EVOC Train-the-Trainer and Update

September 18, 2004

Driver Operator-Pumper

September 21, 2004

Mayday Firefighter Down!

October 18, 20, 23, &
24, 2004



Firefighters recently promoted to Technicians. Front Row, Left to Right: Bill Tremble (FS03), Ghorley Gregg (FS11), AC Matt Partlow, Brian Fluharty (FS04). Back Row: Spencer Wells (FS07), Greg Moore (FS18), Dan DaCosta (Medic 23), Mike Pisauo (FS09), Scott Lambert (FS19), Chief Howard Dawley. Not Pictured: Nicole Carter (FS10), Brad Giffin (FS23), Jason Loveless (FS10).
Photograph Courtesy of Mike Taylor, Fire Marshal

RESCUERS COMPLETE SWIFT WATER TRAINING



Leesburg, VA – July 16, 2004: Swift water rescue training has been provided for Loudoun

County's fire and rescue personnel to prepare for emergencies created by river rescues and flooding. Heavy downpours in recent months have created flood conditions in many rivers and creeks, creating an increased awareness of the need for intensified training in water rescues.

Sponsored by the Loudoun County Volunteer Rescue Squad, students included volunteers from that squad, the Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company, and career firefighters from Loudoun County's Department of Fire and Rescue.

The intense, physically demanding course was taught at Great Falls National Park by local swift water experts George Lewis and Gary Gesling of Rescue 3 Virginia. For four days, rescue personnel learned about water flow dynamics, safety considerations, specialized equipment and a variety of techniques to protect themselves and to rescue others in this challenging environment. The instructors impressed each student with the dangers involved, the enormous power of moving water, and the importance of knowing their own limitations.

"One of the main reasons people - both victims and rescuers - die in floods and moving water is that they underestimate the dangers and difficulties," said squad training officer Marie



Powell. "This course really helped us to understand that, and then gave us the knowledge and skills to respond effectively to these emergencies."

The sixteen fire and rescue personnel who earned certifications in swift water rescue are: Dave Beatty, Michelle Beatty, Andrew Crush, A.J. Durham,

Wagner Grier, Julia Henderson, Kevin Jacobson, Alex Keepers, Mark Manocchio, Zlatan Mrzljak, David Peach, Elzabe Peregrino, Steve Porter, Marie Powell, Rodney Scott, and Kevin Stiles.

The Loudoun County Volunteer Rescue Squad will organize more swift water training classes later this year.

New Deliveries
Sterling's Engine 611 and Tanker 618
Information Provided by
Rick Opett – Sterling VFD
Photographs by Mike Sanders –
Ashburn VFRD

The Sterling Volunteer Fire Company is proud to announce the acceptance of two new class "A" fire pumpers. The units were just recently placed into service, one in the Sterling park station, located at 104 Commerce street, with the unit designated number Engine 611 and the other at the Cascades fire station, 46700 Middlefield Drive, with the unit designated number of Tanker 618.

The two units were purchased from Pierce Manufacturing Co., Appleton, WI, through a competitive bidding process. The two new units have been designed with the latest technology to meet today's needs of firefighting and rescue capability.

Engine 611 is a 2004 Pierce Lance Pumper and carries 750 Gallons of water and has the ability to pump 1750 gallons of water per minute. The Engine carries 1000 feet of 4" supply hose, 500 feet of 3" supply hose, it has four 1 3/4" pre-connected hose lines, and one 2 1/2" pre-connected hose line. This engine is also equipped with the Hurst Tool "Maverick tool" for rescue situations. The state-of-the-art Lance raised cab is designed to carry six firefighters and equipped with independent front suspension and side curtain air bags.

Tanker 618 a 2004 Pierce Lance Pumper and carries 1250 Gallons of water and has the ability to pump 1750 gallons of water per minute. The Tanker carries 1000 feet of 4" supply hose, 500



feet of 3" supply hose, it has four 1 3/4" pre-connected hose lines, and one 2 1/2" pre-connected hose line. The Tanker has two 10" quick dump valves, one on each side of the apparatus for expeditious water needs. This engine is also equipped with the Hurst Tool "Maverick tool" for rescue situations. The state-of-the-art Lance raised cab is designed to carry six firefighters and equipped with independent front suspension and side curtain air bags. The two units were designed to model each other in body configuration and equipment placement.

The two pumpers have replaced a 1984 and a 1985 Pierce Arrow pumpers that were purchased new in their respective years. These two units have served Sterling and the County of Loudoun for the past 20 years. The members of the Sterling Volunteer Fire Co. have decided to donate these two units to the Loudoun County Fire Rescue Training center for training purposes and reserve status.

New Delivery: HAZMAT 619

By Mike Sanders – Station 6

The Loudoun County Department of Fire and Rescue recently took delivery of a new HAZMAT unit that will run from Station 19 in South Riding. With the radio designation of HAZMAT 619, this unit replaces a very worn out old beverage truck.

HAZMAT 619 is a 2004 Spartan Gladiator with a squad body built by SVI of Loveland, Colorado. An interesting note about this unit is that it was an add on order to Fairfax County's recent HAZMAT Support 440, also a 2004 Spartan/SVI that runs from their Oakton station. However, for greater maneuverability and less weight, Loudoun's unit is shorter by six feet. The color scheme for county purchased apparatus is typically white with a red stripe. HAZMAT 619 is painted that color but also has blue stripes (Fort Worth Fire Department blue) that run the length of the truck and the same blue in the shadowing of the letters. A 450 HP Cummins engine and a 30 KW PTO generator provide power to the unit.

The Spartan cab has a four door raised roof and has seating for six personnel. Located to the rear of the cab is a research/desk area complete with laptop computers, fax, phones, and a library of HAZMAT information.

As a result of an increase in serious accidents along the Route 50 corridor, this unit can operate as a heavy squad. The squad body has roll up doors and a fold out awning is located on the driver's side. Also on this side is a hopper system that carries 250 pounds of absorbent. The rear compart-

ment houses the Hurst tools and a back up camera is located above this compartment. The top of the squad has coffin style compartments to store some of the larger items including a little giant A frame ladder, six pike poles, three backboards, and a stokes basket. A twenty-six foot 9000 watt light-tower neatly folds and stores on top of the squad and can be quickly raised with a remote control device. Finally, the front bumper stores chains, pulleys, and other accessories for operations used with the 12000 Ramsey winch and the 9000-pound portable winch. Hitch points are located on each side of the truck.

In addition to HAZMAT 619, South Riding houses an engine company and an EMS unit. When a hazardous material call is dispatched, the station personnel will switch over to the HAZMAT unit. The Spartan/SVI replaces a rather worn out 1978 GMC/Betten that began its life as a beverage truck.

A special thanks to Battalion Chief Scott Cullers of Loudoun County for providing information for this article and Lt. Schumacher and crew for taking the time to pose the HAZMAT for photos.



Loudoun County Fire & Rescue Services new HazMat Unit.

Get Your Flu Shot!!

Flu vaccines will be administered to Fire-Rescue personnel at the Training Center on:

- ⇒ **Tuesday, October 12, 2004**
- ⇒ **Wednesday, October 13, 2004**
- ⇒ **Thursday, October 14, 2004**

From 6:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Bring your Fire-Rescue Photo ID Card to show.

History-Continued from Page 2:

Equipment has expanded with the times. Modern ambulances now carry defibrillators, suction devices, on board oxygen, cots, immobilization devices, intubation equipment, IV materials, a wide range of drugs and heart monitors. Specialized "Squad" trucks which extricate people from vehicle accidents have evolved from using primitive "come along winches"; to the "jaws of life" tools that are so effective. There are also boats for water rescue, and squad members especially trained for search and rescue on the fire scene, for trench rescue and rope rescue. The squad has four modern ambulances all fully equipped.

Membership in the squad has changed with the times. Originally, only men were members and performed rescue. In 1970's women were allowed to participate, but only as members of the Ladies' Auxiliary; even then, they had to be married to a squad member. In 1977s women were admitted as full fledged members, and today they make up approximately half of the squad's responders.

In step with Loudoun County's change from a primarily rural economy, where people worked on their farms, to a mixed economy where people commute to distant jobs, the

method of providing trained rescue personnel 24 hours a day has changed. Today, the daytime shifts from Monday through Friday are covered predominantly by career staff provided by Loudoun County's Fire & Rescue Services. Night s and weekends are still staffed primarily by volunteers. This shared responsibility started in 1996 and contuse today. Volunteers are no longer able to "abandon the plow" and respond to a local emergency.

The Rescue Squad's headquarters have evolved from a "hand made by members" building in Hamilton, with units stored in outlying areas such as Purcellville, Leesburg and Ashburn, to its recently renovated 1974 building on its current recently renovated building on Catoctin Circle in Leesburg. Over the years, the former outlying areas have established their own rescue squads to provide timely emergency response in their home areas. Today, L.C.V.R.S. is responsible for a "first due" area that stretches from Ashburn's outskirts on the East, to Hamilton's outskirts on the West, Oatlands in the South and Lucketts in the North. Emergency responses have expanded from approximately 40 in 1953 to more that 3,700 in 2002. As the

population expands, the need for emergency medical service has kept pace. The squad has graduated from station wagons and hearses to modern, box style ambulances fully equipped with sophisticated medical supplies and staffed by highly trained Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), EMT-Intermediate and EMT-Paramedics. The next 51 years will undoubtedly bring more changes and improvement in the squad.

**Please Send Articles and
Photos to Frankie
at Fire & Rescue**

Or

**E-MAIL ATTACHED
ARTICLES & PHOTOS TO:
frust@loudoun.gov**

**Submission Deadline
1st week of prior month
to month of issue**



**LOUDOUN
COUNTY'S WEB
SITE ADDRESS
www.loudoun.gov**